

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 9DATE 3-14-07BILL NO. HB 557

Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee

Helena, MT

RE: HB 557

Dear Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee:

As property owners, homeowners, and taxpayers, my husband and I adamantly oppose proposed HB 557 and ask that you vote against it. This bill seeks to serve a select few who wish to operate industrial businesses on their property yet avoid paying industrial commercial taxes on that property or pay taxes that support the roads that transport their processed industrial product. As taxpayers, we are asked to bear the burden for the select few and find this to be unacceptable. Please support the majority of citizens who pay their fair share and look to you to represent the majority consensus. Please help us protect our constitutional rights and property rights.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Lori Heatherington

975 Rhodes Draw

Kalispell, MT 59901

Flathead County

3/12/2007

**Bill Allegro**

**From:** cookla [cookla@centurytel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2007 6:24 PM  
**To:** Bill Allegro  
**Subject:** Fw: letter for HB 557—Thank you for taking them down.....Irene

February 12, 2007

TO: The Honorable Senators and Representatives of the State of Montana

RE: HB 557

Since I am unable to be there in person to voice my opinion on this bill I'll use this old tried and true method of communication, a simple letter. We all know that gravel pits and gravel extraction are hot topics in Montana today, Flathead County being no exception and one of the areas seemingly affected most. I can only state my feelings on this bill but I also think I speak for many in opposing this controversial piece of legislation. This bill should it pass would take any power the county might have in regulating gravel pits and gravel extraction and allow operators of these industries to mine sand and gravel and operate asphalt and concrete plants anywhere they chose. Can you imagine a noisy, dusty gravel pit next door to you? Would you like to wake each morning with the noise of rock crushers and dozens of dump trucks coming through your bedroom window? Can you imagine playing golf or softball while trying to compete with the dirt, dust and noise generated by this type of mining? I think not! Many Montanans hunt or fish, not only for pleasure, but for food. What will happen to these resources when there is no habitat left for our wildlife. Extreme cases? Maybe, maybe not, but do these things have to take place before we take steps to stop this destruction?

The legislators of Montana, like any public office are, public servants, elected to serve the wishes of the people. This bill does not serve the public at large, it serves a handful of industries with deep pockets that want to make the pockets deeper at the expense of all that live within the boundaries of Montana. The gentleman from Libby who sponsored this bill must have forgotten what has happened to the people of Libby as a result of mining. It looks like campaign contributions make a bigger difference than public support to many of our politicians, what a shame, I can remember when a vote counted for something and the people elected their representatives.

In conclusion, I must ask you to defeat this bill as being totally unfair to the public of Montana and to all that Montana stands for. This is not a bill to benefit the people, this is a bill that benefits only a handful.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Bob Sauer  
985 Rhodes Draw  
Kalispell MT 59901  
406-752-6538

3/12/2007

## Bill Allegro

**From:** cookla [cookla@centurytel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2007 6:18 PM  
**To:** Bill Allegro  
**Subject:** Fw: HB 557—letter

Hi,

I asked that you seriously think about what HB 557 will do before you vote.  
This bill will not only effect your district, but every district in the state of Montana.  
This bill would turn "Residentially" zoned areas with "Agriculturally" taxed property into a industrial area, that is not what Montana is all about. People live here for the beauty, for the ability to go home after a hard days work and be able to relax in their own home, not to listen to gravel trucks, crushers, and smell fumes from Asphalt/Batch plants. They want to know that their children are safe to walk to and from schools, or friends houses on residential roads, we have already had one girl killed, and one girl hit by a gravel truck in the same location in our area, please don't make this situation state wide.  
I ask that you please vote "no" on HB 557.

Thank You,

Steve Vandehey  
Kalispell, MT 59901

3/12/2007

**Bill Allegro**

**From:** cookla [cookla@centurytel.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2007 9:35 AM  
**To:** Bill Allegro  
**Subject:** Fw: Re: HB 557 Letters to Helena-----

-----Original Message-----

**From:** jim marino  
**Date:** 03/12/2007 09:50:24 PM  
**To:** cookla  
**Subject:** Re: HB 557 Letters to Helena-----gravel pit

Hello, This letter is to relay my wholehearted opposition to HB 557. This bill ignores the rights of existing and future taxpaying landowners for the benefit of the chosen few gravel, concrete and asphalt producers. While they get rich, we the taxpayers are faced with dwindling property values and not only unsafe traffic conditions but premature degradation of our sub-standard county roads. All taxpayers in the county have to foot the bill for county road improvements and there is never enough funding to adequately maintain these roads. The increase in heavy truck traffic alone will put a stress on our roads that is unmanageable. I urge you to vote NO on HB 557.

Sincerely,  
Jim and Carol Marino  
1555 Church Drive  
Kalispell, MT.

3/13/2007

**Bill Allegro**

**From:** cookla [cookla@centurytel.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 13, 2007 1:35 PM  
**To:** Bill Allegro  
**Subject:** Fw: House Bill 557

Hi,

Here is another one.

Irene

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Clara LaChappelle  
**Date:** 03/13/2007 12:32:00 PM  
**To:** cookla@centurytel.net  
**Subject:** House Bill 557

I can not believe that this session of government is thinking of passing a bill like this. What ever has happened to all of the residents of Montana being able to protect their property rights. Right now you are looking to taking them away and give it all to the people that have lived here for 2, 3 or 4 generations (the ones that seem to have the right to everything). If is wasn't for these people selling off their property to the new people, maybe then they won't have a problem with what they are facing now. I have lived here for 25 years. Never had a problem with neighbors. Now the GOOD-OLD BOY SYNDROME that was once was can't work anymore. The times have changed. If the GOOD-OLD BOYS didn't want not to be able to do what ever with their land. Then they should have not sold it. Now after they have sold off the their land to new people, the new people weren't sold their land with the intention of having their rights destroyed either. A lot of people where never told that they would be facing gravel pits in a residential area. I live in West Valley in Kalispell. For 17 years I have enjoyed the reason I moved there. The quiet, peaceful area that is was. To be able to raise my daughter in the country with animals. Watch the stars and satellites at night. Now about 4 tenths of a mile from my home I have one of the largest gravel pits in West Valley. It sits on 320 areas. It is the most god offal things to look at. The noise is terrible. The noise when the crusher is running rattles my windows in my home. I don't even have to open the windows to hear this. You can not go outside to any peace and quiet. The dust is horrendous. At times you can not even see Farm To Market Road because of the dust and dirt flying. There are no one that can monitor these gravel pits once they are put in. So the owners of the land and the contracting company have a free for all. THEY CAN DO DAMN WELL AS THEY PLEASE, WITH NO CONSEQUENCES. WE HAVE THIS NOW. No one wants to stand

up to the gravel pit people once they get a gravel permit. IT IS A REAL SHAME THAT IS COST A PERSON \$200.00 PLUS FOR A SEPTIC PERMIT. THIS IN IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LAND AND SURROUNDINGS. YET IS ONLY COST \$50.00 FOR A GRAVEL PERMIT TO DESTROY THE LAND. GO FIGURE. How can you permit more gravel pits in an area where there is a contaminated ground water. We have an aquifer that is contaminated with an extremely high level of nitrates. This was used by the farmers to produce their mint fields. Now the water aquifer referred to as the Lost Creek Fan is contaminated. This water aquifer if allowed to be destroyed by the means of removing layers of dirt and rock so that the gravel pit operators can have their gravel will leak into the Kalispell water aquifer which is the next water aquifer down. It is a known medical fact that when this water is given to infants will kill this baby in 24 hours. The baby will die of respiratory distress. This is called "BLUE BABY SYNDROME" AND WILL KILL THE INFANT IN 24 HOURS. There is no recourse to help this. The baby just dies. I KNOW THIS FOR A FACT FOR I CAME WITH IN A FEW DAYS OF KILLING MY GRANDDAUGHTER WITH THIS WATER. Nothing can be done about it. The state DEQ just keeps taking water samples to see where the level is going. The levels just stay the same. Nothing else is being done about this. WE AS MONTANA'S HAVE THE RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR TO BREATHE AND CLEAN WATER TO DRINK. WE NOW HAVE NEITHER. I hope you will not pass this bill. You will be destroying a lot of people's lives for the benefit of a few. Please stop and do your homework in regards to this matter.

Thank you,

Clara L. LaChappelle  
3580 Farm To Market Road  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-250-3872

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Open WebMail Project (<http://openwebmail.org>)